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## GENERAL

1. Soviet incorporation of Poland into USSR considered unlikely--US Embassy Warsaw questions the interpretation that the Kremlin plans to incorporate Poland into the USSR "in the not too remote future." The Embassy expresses the views that: (a) the USSR has used the Satellites to create a buffer against western Europe and to multiply the number of pro-Soviet votes in the UN; (b) incorporation of the Satellites into the USSR would sacrifice these advantages and create serious internal difficulties in Poland for the USSR; and (c) the present Polish Government is steadily evolving in the approved Soviet pattern.
2. UK Foreign Office alters views on Communist tactics--According to US Embassy London, the UK Foreign Office has submitted to Bevin its "tentative" estimate that: (a) the Italian Communists will temporarily ease up on their recent strike tactics; and (b) the French Communists will also "go slow for the time being." The Foreign Office believes that the Communists in Italy will try to obtain sufficient participation in the Government through the April elections to obtain the post of Minister of Interior and thus gain control of the country. (This estimate is a modification of the earlier Foreign Office belief that the Communists would make strenuous efforts to incite trouble in the two countries in March.)
3. Benelux view of proposed bilateral treaties--US Ambassador Caffery reports that the Benelux countries are replying to the UK-French proposal for a series of treaties calling for joint action against German aggression, by declaring that: (a) such

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Army Review Completed

DOS review completed

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an approach to the present situation is unrealistic; and (b) the Benelux countries would prefer a regional agreement which would provide for mutual assistance in case of attack and would be based on the UN charter. The Benelux countries agree, however, to discuss with the British and French the idea of a western European union which will be designed to strengthen economic as well as political ties.

#### **EUROPE**

4. **CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Estimate of political crisis**--US Ambassador Steinhardt reports that events have moved so rapidly in Czechoslovakia recently that the sole restraining influence upon the Communists appears to be President Benes' constitutional authority and his personal popularity.

(CIA Comment: CIA believes that the Communists will make every effort to preserve a semblance of legality in their drive to gain control of the government. However, the Communists are already so committed by their public pronouncements and actions that it would be political suicide for them to accept a compromise which did not enable them to retain sufficient power, including control of the police, to insure a Communist victory in the May election.)

#### **FAR EAST**

5. **KOREA: Hodge confers with South Korean political leaders**--US Political Adviser Langston reports that in a 20 February conference with Rhee Syngman, Kim Koo, and Kimmu Kimsic, General Hodge found that although no basic accord exists among the South Korean leaders, Kimmu Kimsic and Kim Koo would "go along" if the UN Commission should proceed to observe elections in South Korea. Hodge indicates that only Rhee openly supports such a move at present and that the other two leaders will not publicly endorse separate elections for fear of being branded "traitors" to Korean unity. Kimmu Kimsic is reported by

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"still harping on the lack of definite policy by the US and is more hysterical than ever concerning establishment of South Korean security forces."

(CIA Comment: In contrast with Rhee and Kim Koo, who are extreme Rightists and bent on autocratic rule, Kim Kihun Klusic, as leader of the National Independence Federation, represents what is probably the only potentially democratic force in South Korea. CIA believes that Kim has abandoned expectation of immediate unification of Korea but hopes to extract a promise of all-out US support of a future government in South Korea before he will publicly endorse the establishment of such a government.)

6. **FRENCH INDOCHINA: Possible Bollaert resignation--US**  
Ambassador Caffery in Paris has been informed by a French Foreign Office source that High Commissioner Bollaert has threatened to resign if his "exclusive" authorization to negotiate a settlement of the Vietnam problem is further infringed. Bollaert considers Dao Dai's recent conferences with high Foreign Office officials to be such an infringement.

(CIA Comment: If Bollaert resigns, he will probably be succeeded as High Commissioner by a military officer with a less conciliatory approach to the Vietnamese problem.)

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